

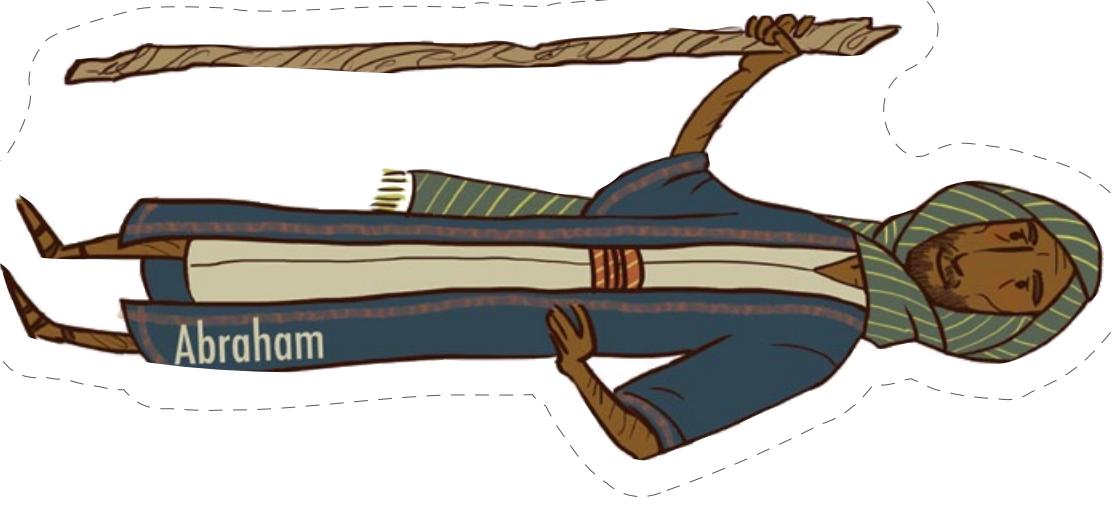
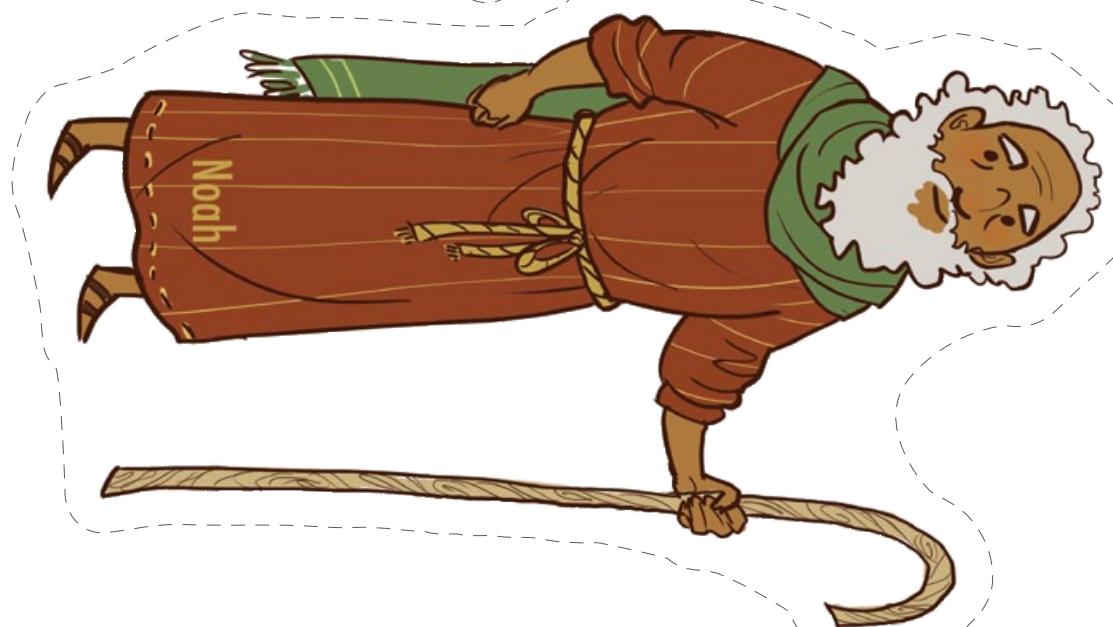
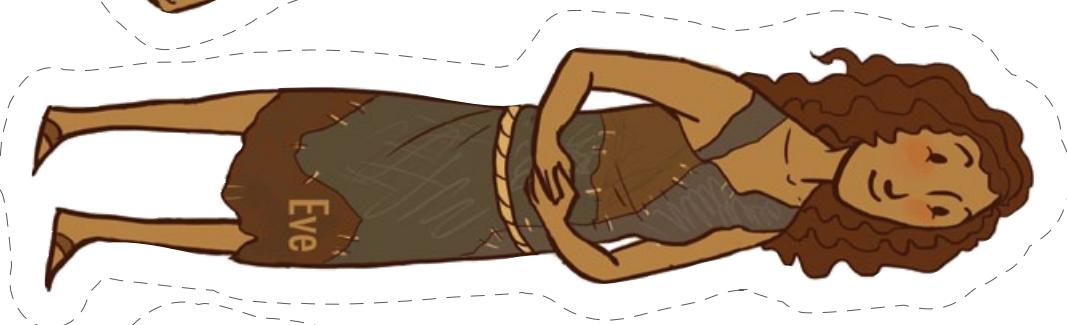
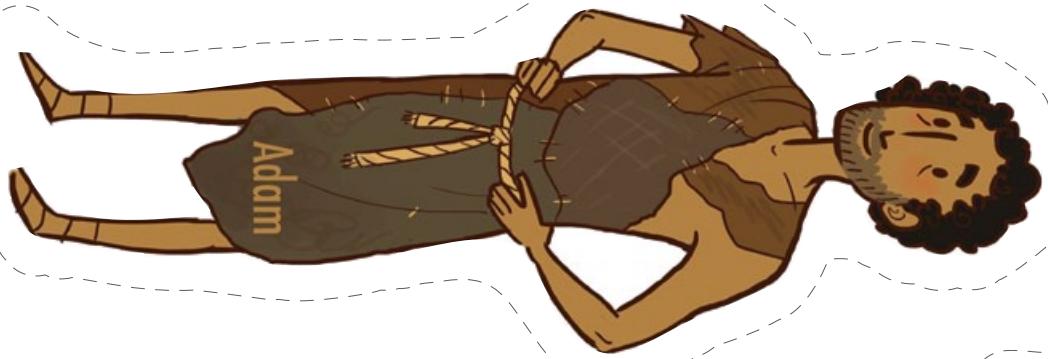
Aha! Moments





Questions to Consider in Writing a Family Mission Statement

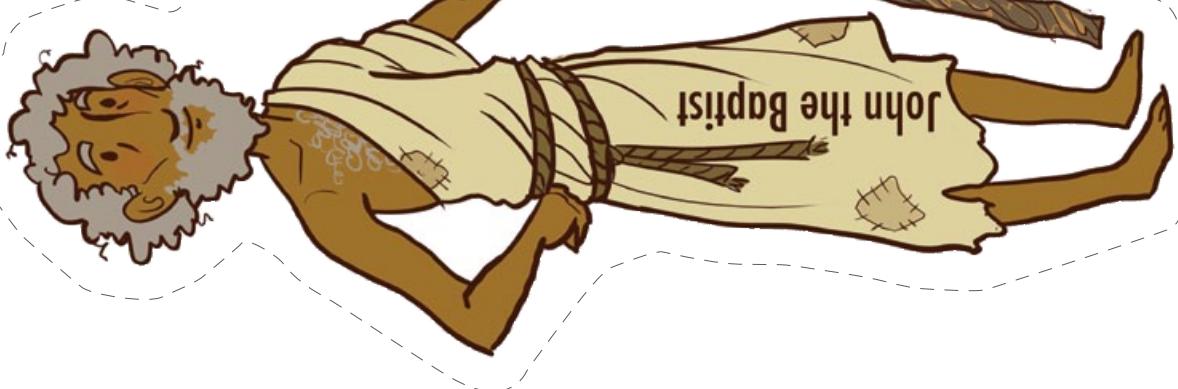
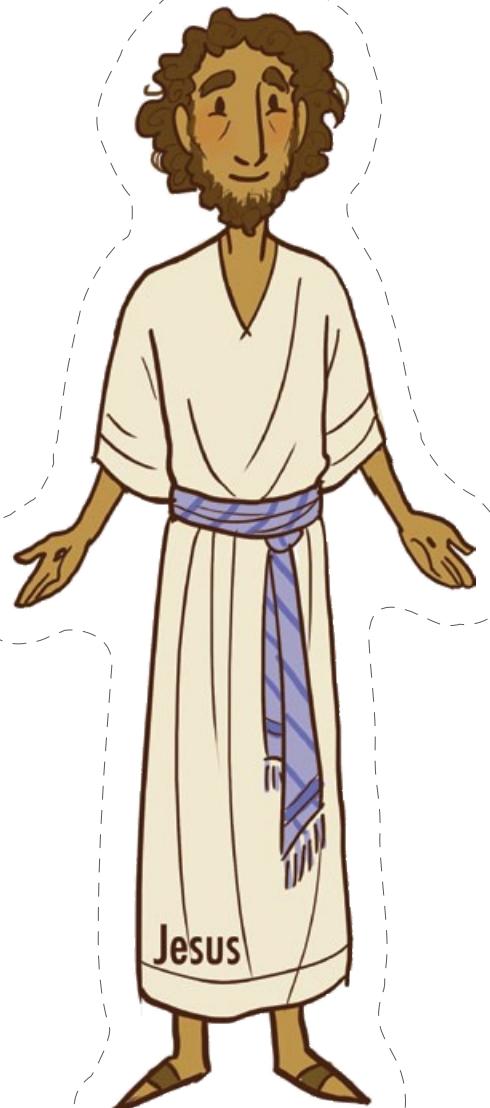
- What kind of atmosphere do you want to have in your home?
- What kind of family life do you desire?
- What kind of parent do you envision yourself being?
- What behaviors do you want your family members to demonstrate?
- What goals do you have for your child at various stages in her life?
- What are some of your fondest childhood memories?
- What painful experiences did you have in your family that you feel would not benefit your child if replicated?
- What biblical qualities do you desire to see manifested in your child?
- What mode of discipline do you feel is best in your home? How did you arrive at that decision?
- What changes do you need to make in order to allow your family to have more time and fun together?
- What perspectives (culture, economics, politics, etc.) should your child encounter other than the ones she is naturally exposed to?













Explaining God's Salvation Plan to Kids

- It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict us of our sin and lead us to Christ. It's a great privilege when God allows us to be part of the process in others! If you have a child who's expressed an interest in God's salvation plan, you can use these key thoughts to equip you to have a conversation with him.
- The whole Bible describes God's grand plan to be in a loving relationship with us forever. Ever since Adam and Eve, we all have sinned. ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23) God is holy. We cannot be in relationship with Him because of our sin.
- God is also perfectly fair and just. We all deserve God's punishment. But He loves us even though we sin. ("But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8) God is also perfect love. His love is a free gift. ("For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23)
- God loves us and wants to forgive us. ("For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16) Jesus is God's perfect Son, and He died on a cross to take the consequences for our sin. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He conquered death and came back to life to prove He's stronger than our sin. Because Jesus died and rose again, God's forgiveness provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him again.
- God's plan is perfect. Believing in Jesus, asking for His forgiveness, and inviting Him to lead your life is the way to accept God's free gift. ("If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9–10)

Explaining God's Salvation Plan to Kids (continued)

- God always keeps His promises. Once we believe in Jesus and ask for God's forgiveness, we can celebrate because we're sure He forgives us. Now we're part of The Big God Story and His family forever. ("Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12) We want to grow in a relationship with Him and some of the ways we do this include: praying, reading the Bible, worshipping, and being involved with other believers in the faith community.
- God is now our Father, and we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us live the way He wants us to live. When we have the good news of being in God's family, we have a new identity, and we want to tell others about it. (Encourage your child to express his decision in his own words.)
- Celebrate! This is the greatest decision a child will ever make, and you've been privileged to participate in it!

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey

This begins with a few basic steps. Below you'll find a path with several discussion points to help guide your conversation with a child who expresses an interest in God's plan of salvation.

This is so exciting! Now that you are forgiven and part of God's family (John 1:12), you can share your decision with others.

- **Is there someone you want to tell about your decision to follow Jesus?**

6

This is so exciting! Now that you are forgiven and part of God's family (John 1:12), you can share your decision with others.

- **Is there someone you want to tell about your decision to follow Jesus?**

5

Once we ask Jesus to forgive us, He takes away all of our sins. Jesus saves us from the penalty of our sins. And when we trust Jesus as our Savior, we become part of God's family forever (1 John 5:11–12). Because we are part of God's family, we now have God's Spirit to empower us to live in a way that pleases Him and to do the things that help us learn about Him, such as reading His Word, being a part of a local church, praying, etc. (Colossians 1:10).

- **What are some ways you can learn more about Jesus?**

4

Jesus is God's perfect Son. Jesus died on a cross to take the consequences for our sins (John 3:16). Because Jesus died for us, God forgives our sins.

- **Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins?**

3

Jesus didn't stay dead. The Bible tells us that He rose from the dead and lives today. That means we can talk to Him right now. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the consequences for our sins and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9–10), we can ask God to forgive us, and He will (Colossians 1:13–14; 1 John 1:9).

- **Would you like to ask God to forgive you for your sins?**

2

The Bible says that our sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23). But God provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him so we can live with Him now and forever. We all need God's forgiveness.

- **Do you want to know how to be forgiven by God?**

The Path to salvation

God loves us but He hates sin.

The Bible teaches that all people have sinned or disobeyed God (Romans 3:23).

- **Where do you see sin in your own life?**

1

Questions for Reflection

1. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life as God invites him into The Big God Story?

2. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing, and help your child find her place in The Big God Story?

3. Have you been awakened to any ways in which you've been thwarting what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your home? If so, where have you been off track? What would you like to do differently?

4. What preparation will you need in order to share The Big God Story with your child? What about sharing your own story of redemption?
